

Patton, Sadie Smathers ^[1]

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By George Myers Stephens

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Sadie Smathers Patton, local historian, was born in [Henderson County](#) ^[2], the daughter of John Wesley and Mary Rickman Smathers. She was educated by private tutors and read law under a Hendersonville attorney. As senior court reporter she served in most of the counties of western North Carolina. Active in numerous local and regional historical and patriotic organizations, she was a founder and trustee of the [Cherokee Historical Association](#) ^[3], producer of the outdoor drama, [Unto These Hills](#) ^[4]. From 1941 to 1957 she was a member of the executive board of the [North Carolina Department of Archives and History](#) ^[5].

Sadie Patton was the author of [Ghost Stories and Legends of the Mountains](#) (1935) ^[6], [The Story of Henderson County](#) (1947) ^[7], [Sketches of Polk County History](#) (1950) ^[8], [Saint James Episcopal Church, Hendersonville](#) (1953?) ^[9], [Buncombe to Mecklenburg: Speculation Lands](#) (1955) ^[10], and [The Kingdom of the Happy Land](#) (1957) ^[11].

Her husband was Preston Fidelia Patton and they had an adopted son. She was buried in Calvary Churchyard, Fletcher.

References:

Asheville Citizen-Times , 25 Apr. 1954, 6 Apr. 1958, 9 June 1958

North Carolina Biography , vol. 3 (1956)

William S. Powell, ed., *North Carolina Lives* (1962)

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